$100,000 Grant Awarded to Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy

Funds to be used for advanced-level training

Jackson, Miss. (June 17, 2011) – A $100,000 grant has been awarded to the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy to fund a security training program. The grant was presented by the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

The Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy will use the grant to conduct Homeland Security training for law enforcement personnel. The grant is part of a $200 million federal program being administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities at the state, local, and community levels as part of a comprehensive national emergency management system

"These grants are designed to enhance the effectiveness of our state and local law enforcement agencies," said J.W. Ledbetter, Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security. "Grant recipients will use the endowments to fund training programs for emergency first responders, to purchase of state-of-the-art law enforcement equipment, or for the development of citizen corps projects at local level."

The grant program is part of a federal plan for 'All-Hazard' response planning, beginning at local levels. The aim is the improve response capabilities for catastrophic natural disasters, potential for weapons of mass destruction, acts of terrorism, and chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear/explosive incidents. The initiative also improves local response capabilities for traffic agents, fires and other emergencies.

The Mississippi Department of Homeland Security, a division of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, in fiscal year 2011 will distribute more than $5.29 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funding in Mississippi for training and equipment.

For more information go to www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov.